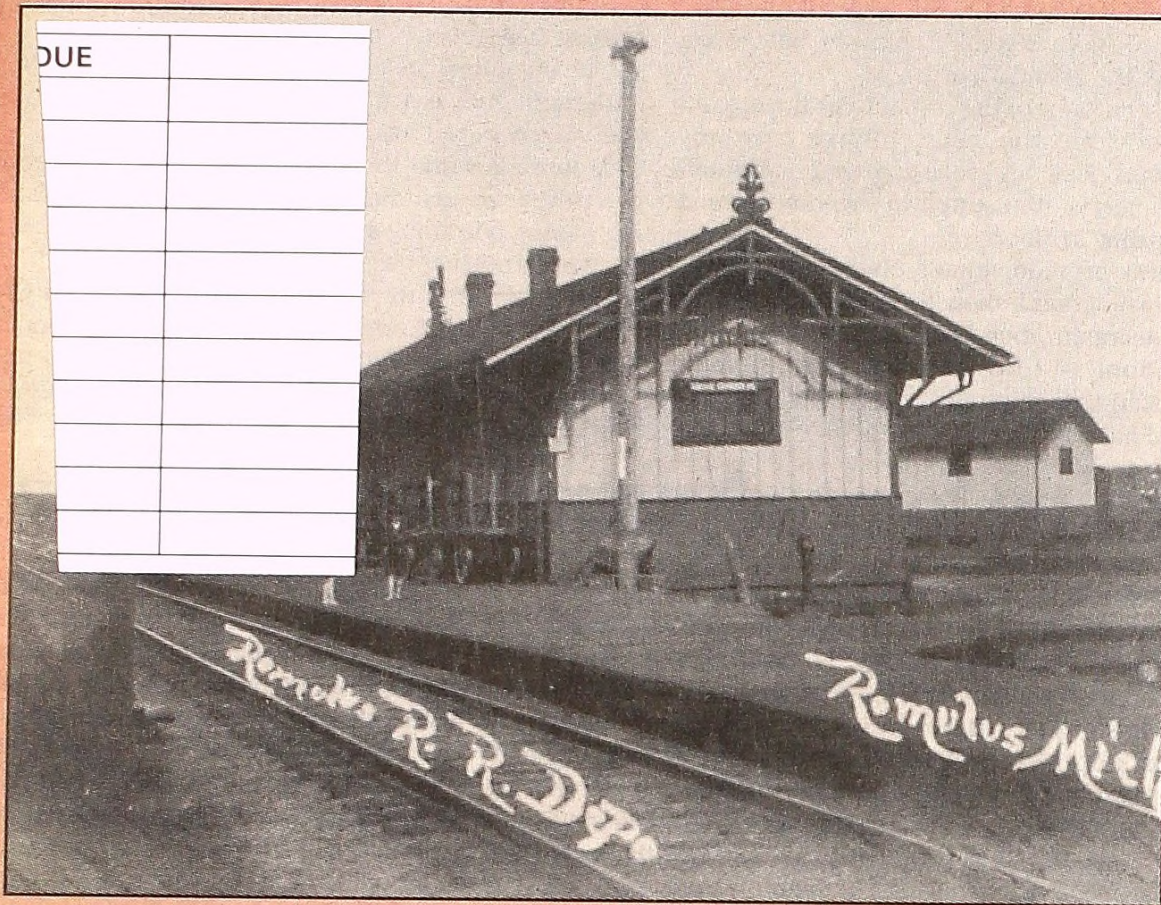




This 1907 post card was used to make a positive identification of the freight house, which is the building to the right of the train depot in the distance

Historic freight house moves to new home

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Last month, the historic Wabash Freight House made its final move to the Romulus Historic Park, where it will join the likes of an 1839 school house, an 1855 Samuel Kingsley house and a 1940s caboose.

There it will undergo a restoration process that will include a new roof, and repairs to the walls, floor and rafters. A 500-square-foot deck with a ramp leading toward the C&O Caboose will also be constructed as a part of the restoration,

according to Mark J. Lewkowicz, chairman of the Romulus Historical Commission.

"The railroad was an important part of Romulus' history and this is the only remaining building from the station," he said. "We thought we needed to save it and move it to the park."

The journey was only about a quarter of a mile and only took about a half an hour, but that was long and hard enough for the 100-year-old building. It made it safe and sound, though. It hitched a ride on a flatbed truck and made its way down Goddard Road from its

previous location, down Hunt Street and into what hopes to be its final resting place: the historical park. Now, it's just awaiting the last intricacies of the makeover.

The restorations will be completed very soon, with custom material from an Amish lumber mill located in northern Michigan.

"This was one of the only places to get materials that are the right size for a 100-year-old building," Lewkowicz said.

The Freight House is considered the only surviving railroad structure from the turn of the century, according to Lewkowicz. He said there were five buildings that served the railroad at the time: a railroad station that served the Wabash (now the Norfolk Southern Railway) and the Pere Marquette (now the CSX railway), an interlocking tower to control the two lines, a milk shed, a coal shed and the freight house.

Through its long history, the freight house is now in its third location. It was constructed prior to 1907 and originally on a line that connected the Wabash line to the Pere Marquette line, according to Lewkowicz. The approximate location of the freight house was proven by a post card of the Romulus Railroad buildings postmarked 1907, he said. Then, a 1919 Sanborn map of

See Wabash, page 3



The freight house now sits at its new home in the historical park with the historic C&O Caboose in the background. The Romulus Historic Commission is looking for donations to construct a sidewalk from the house to the caboose.

3 men apprehended in gunstore murder, arson

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

A 4-month investigation by the Inkster Police in conjunction with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) has resulted in the arrest of one Detroit man and two Inkster men for the killing of a gun shop owner.

Anthony Fields, 17, stood emotionless during his arraignment at the 22nd District Court Monday. He is the third person to be charged with the Aug. 3 killing of Clyde Alexander, the owner of Alexander's Gun Range on Michigan Avenue. Fields, of Detroit, was charged with first-degree murder, felony murder, arson and firearm possession. Judge Sylvia A. James entered a not guilty plea for Fields and set a preliminary court examination date of Dec. 15.

Twenty-two-year-old David McKinney, of Inkster, is facing the same charges, and was arraigned on Friday. A 14-year-old boy from Inkster was charged with first-degree murder, felony murder and arson at juvenile court in Detroit, police said.

Police believe Fields was among a group of six men who robbed, beat and bound Alexander, a 54-year-old licensed gun dealer, while he prepared to open his store at 10:30 a.m., police said. Fields is also believed to be the man who set the building ablaze with Alexander still inside, police said.

The victim's body was found inside what remained of the facility after the fire was extinguished. An autopsy later revealed he died of smoke inhalation.

Valerie Goddard, ATF special agent, said the men stole about 40 guns from the store. "We are very concerned about the status of these guns," she said. "They were stolen for criminal use. We are working hard to get them off the streets."

Two guns stolen from the shop have been found, said Lt. Kevin Smith of the Inkster Police. He said the investigation is far from over.

"There are still guns on the street, and there will be more arrests in this case," he said.

Goddard said Alexander's death is the second murder of a federally-licensed gun dealer in Michigan in 2 years. In 2002, a Lapeer gun dealer was killed during a robbery.



Clyde Alexander

"We want everyone to know we will do everything we can to find people who commit crimes against our membership," she said.

Inkster Police Chief Marvin Winkler said the investigation is still ongoing, and that an enormous effort was mobilized within the detective bureau to crack the case. "My detectives did a fantastic job with what was really a 'whodunit' case," Winkler said. "It took many long hours. We're also grateful for the help we received from the ATF and other agencies."

Tom Brendan, ATF special agent, called the work between the Inkster Police and the ATF a "successful collaborative effort."

Alexander's family members said they also applaud the efforts of the police department and other law enforcement agencies for aggressively pursuing the case against the men.

"There is still a lot of sadness about this, but we're glad there will be some justice," said Tonya Alexander, Clyde Alexander's niece. "But we're really glad (police and ATF personnel) made the efforts they did. It's just very bittersweet."

Alexander owned the gun shop for about 20 years. He was a recognizable face in the Inkster business community, where he served on the Downtown Development Authority board. He also tried to help young people by volunteering in sports organizations and mentoring programs, family members said.

There is a sense of betrayal, Tonya Alexander said.

"He wanted to help young black men - that was a passion of his," she said. "It just so difficult that young black men did this to him. We're just so shocked at how young they are."

Police said more arrests will likely come in the case, and that the department will make a continuing effort to find the stolen guns.

If convicted, Fields and McKinney will spend the rest of their lives in prison without the possibility of parole.

Adopt A Child group seeking holiday help

Andrea King
Staff Writer

This time of year, Teresa Moore from Westland is busy shopping for pants, shirts, sweaters, socks, undergarments, mittens, shoes, coats and pajamas, all in small sizes.

The clothing isn't for her grandchildren, nieces, or nephews though. It is for the many children in Wayne and Washtenaw County who need warm clothing for the cold weather.

In 1986, Moore began Adopt-a-Child-Size and Support Services Inc.—a non-profit organization that provides clothing to underprivileged children. Under the supervision of the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA), the organization receives referrals to determine which families are most in need of assistance. Referrals can come from shelters, community care programs, school districts, churches,

the health department and other service agencies.

Moore said that since starting the organization, Adopt-a-Child-Size has helped more than 6,000 children stay warm through the bitter cold Michigan weather.

"Our first year, we served about 100 children. Our goal this year is to serve about 400 children, but we are already well over that," said Moore.

Without the generosity of the community, the organization could not clothe the many children currently helped. The group does not receive government funding and relies solely on the support of volunteers and donations, according to Moore.

"We get several local individuals, churches and community groups who donate their time, money, clothing and efforts to the organization," she said.

Although Adopt-a-Child-Size operates all year-round, Moore said that the holidays are always when they are needed most.

"During the holidays we try to start early so we can get the clothes out to the children by Christmas," she said. "Then in January we start all over again."

And when someone adopts-a-child-size, they not only agree to help low-income families' children ages newborn to 15 stay cozy and clothed, but also help them to receive at least one book and an educational toy.

The complete package each child receives includes: undergarments, coats, boots, pants, shirts, socks, pajamas, sweaters, mittens, a book and a toy.

Moore said that there are numerous ways people can volunteer, including the purchase of clothes, donating money, becoming a corporate sponsor, or establishing a program in their own group.

Volunteers can also come to the Sumpter Progressive Civic League in Sumpter Township from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesdays until Dec. 15 to help assemble the packages that will be distributed.

For more information, call 734-722-4025.

Church provides bikes, clothing to needy families at giveaway

Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer

For families struggling to make ends meet, dreams of glossy new bicycles and toys this Christmas could simply remain dreams, as their money is instead used to buy food, pay rent, and keep the electricity turned on.

This year, though, help for families who have hit a rough patch is available once again from the Revival Outreach Center (ROC) International Church in Northville Township.

"On Dec. 19, we are having what we call our Christmas Bike Giveaway," said Jason Rising, pastor of ROC International Church. "Last year, we gave away 300 bikes, and this year we expect to have

about the same number."

He added that many of the bicycles donated—which are purchased for about \$80 on a discount from Wal-Mart—are funded through donations by businesses and individuals. Despite this help, the expense of the program forces the church to limit it to about 300, and it generally fills up.

The program isn't limited to bicycles, either. Rising said that while the church distributes 20-inch, 24-inch, or 26-inch bikes as appropriate to children 5-10 years old, everyone from birth to about 13 years old is eligible for a gift of some kind.

When the program began 5 years ago, Rising said that it was designed so the church could benefit nearby communities and, in keeping with their faith, help their

fellow citizens celebrate the holiday.

"It's one of the ways we reach out to our community," he said.

The benefits, however, extend beyond the children. Rising said that the program has been a great thing for the congregation to see the joy on the face of children who didn't expect to see a major Christmas gift of any kind this year when their gifts are presented to them.

Despite the faith-based origin of the program, Rising stressed that participation is open to anyone in a difficult financial situation, regardless of where they live or their personal religious beliefs. He added that while some of the recipients are themselves church members, many will have no connection to them beyond word of mouth publicity of the program.

Rising said that the recipients of the toys could span the county, since the church attracts members from areas ranging from Northville to Westland, and supports an ethnically diverse congregation.

"There are people from all over who come to this church," he said.

Registration for the program has already begun. Because of the costs associated with the program, it is limited to about 300 children. Interested families can either sign up when they attend church services on Dec. 12, or register by phone after Dec. 12. To register by phone, individuals should call (734) 404-0270 extension 180.

ROC International Church is located at 16115 Beck Road between Five and Six Mile Roads in Northville Township.

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Among those attending the Grand-Friends breakfast were Marques Smith, Ronald Carter, Cathy Grizzle, Jillian Gray, Dolores Garry, Elfredia Whitfield, Louise Whitfield, Lucretia Johnson, Alecia Walls, Tommeke Johnson, Jessica Schaf, Duana Pinczarka, Bianca Talbert, Tery Davis, Johnny Boyd and Ashley Shaw.

Breakfast brings generations together

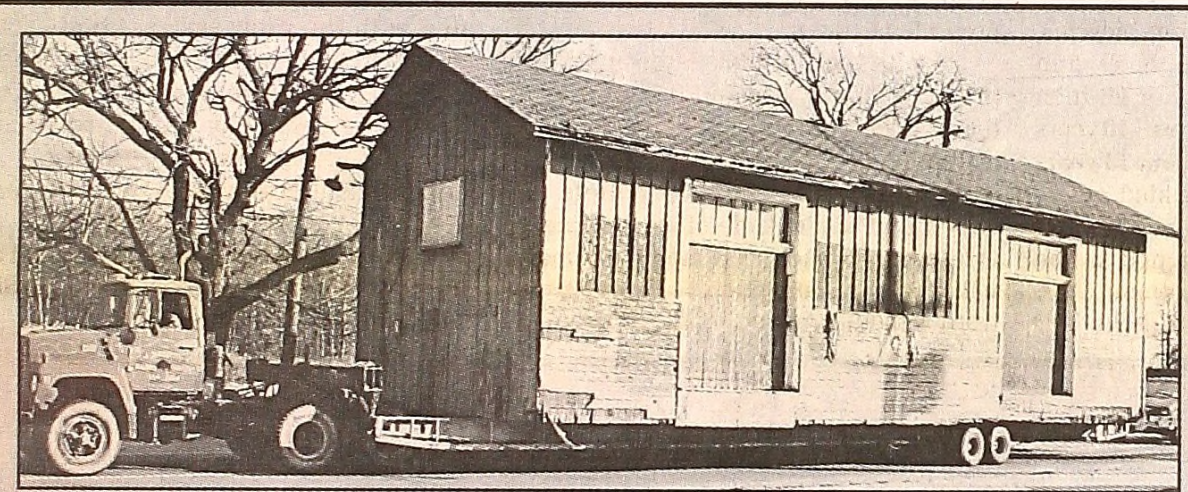
Students from teacher Terri Brinston's Health Occupations class recently sponsored a Grand-Friends Breakfast. The purpose of the event was to get different generations comfortable with each other and learn from each other.

"We hope that this project will help our students gain better understanding of their history and how grandparent sacrifices have helped to ensure their present comforts," Brinston said. "Students need to know that life has not always been like it is now and they need to thank their grandparents for the con-

tributions they have made to bring about their current family success."

Since heredity plays an important role in everyone's life, students took time during the event to learn about their grandparent's medical history and gained insight into areas that they should consider such as diet, exercise and possible future health concerns.

Students provided entertainment throughout the breakfast program with poetic readings, dance and vocal performances.



The freight house traveled down Goddard Road on a flat bed truck to its new home in the Romulus Historical Park.

Wabash

FROM PAGE 1

the area was discovered in the historic archives located in the Kingsley house.

"This map showed the exact original location of the freight house," Lewkowicz said. "This map also indicated that the freight house had a 10 by 85-foot deck, and that there was a stockyard to the northeast of the freight house."

The building made its first move to its former location near the Harris Lumber Yard, which was located at 36036 Goddard Road, and eventually became Johnson Fuel and Supply. There, the building was used as a storage facility.

For years, Johnson's supplied the Romulus community with coal, fuel, oil, ready mix cement and lumber. During the time they were in business, a two-story addition was added to the back that included a two-unit apartment and storage in the lower area, Lewkowicz said. It eventually closed down in the 1990s.

In July 1998, Tom Fraser purchased the building from Romulus Johnson, but by

August 2002 the entire complex was slated for demolition. Lewkowicz and the rest of the Romulus Historical Commission - along with the City of Romulus - came to the rescue. With major support from Mayor Alan Lambert, the city council supported the restoration idea.

"We're a strong community as far as history; it's very important to us," Lambert said. "I think it's the one thing that ties us to the railroad—it's the only remaining part of the railroad left and we thought it was important to preserve it."

In order to verify that the freight was truly a historical railroad building, Dr. Mark Camp, a member of the Railroad Station Historical Society Inc., came in from Toledo, OH to inspect the building, according to Lewkowicz. Camp made the positive identification, which allowed the commission to take the next step: securing funds for the move.

With the city behind the project, they made a request to Wayne County for a community development block grant to fund the project early in 2003.

In September of this year, the county finally received per-

mission from the department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to commence with the project. The city council awarded contracts for the move and the restoration at the Oct. 11 meeting and the rest is history.

With the restoration on the freight nearly complete there are still other additions and maintenance improvements that are still needed. But the funds are running low.

"At this time donations are needed to complete a sidewalk that will lead to the caboose and repair the lawn sprinkler system," Lewkowicz said.

He said anyone who donates at least \$500 to the project would have his or her name inscribed on a plaque that will be located in the building.

The building, once done, will serve as a 1,000 square-foot enclosed structure for the museum grounds and could be used as an entertainment area during many of the citywide events throughout the year. Whatever the use, the refurbished building will remain a part of Romulus' history.

"Let's hope it stays here in the park for another 100 years," Lewkowicz said.

Airport Security Screener honored for service

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The airways are a lot safer when Dean Solomon is on duty at Detroit Metro Airport. The Romulus resident was recently honored as the local security Screener of the Year by the Detroit office of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

He wasn't the only one to receive honors at the ceremony on Nov. 17. The Wayne County Airport Authority (WCAA) received a Partnership Award from the TSA for, "distinctly advancing TSA's mission to protect the nation's transportation systems and significantly enhancing TSA's ability to achieve its goals," said Robert Ball, TSA's federal security director of Detroit.

The Michigan National Guard, the Federal Air Marshall Service and the United States Customs and Border Protection received recognition as well.

Besides Solomon, 10 other local TSA employees received a variety of awards in categories that included Outstanding Customer Service, Administrative Support, Technical Support and Leadership.

The award ceremony came just weeks after members of the WCAA board approved a \$32.8 million contract with the Detroit office of Gensler Architecture, Design and Planning for services for the new \$400 million-plus North Terminal redevelopment project - a project that could also beef up the security of Metro Airport.

In the wake of previous and recent TSA security requirements, this appears to be a good time to build a new terminal.

"Designing a new terminal in the post-9/11 environment provides us with some advantages over other airports," said WCAA CEO Lester Robinson. "We can design and build a safe and efficient terminal facility, and take advantage of some of the future TSA security requirements for passenger and luggage screening, and we can design a facility that best handles those requirements, while ensuring a seamless and efficient experience from the traveler's standpoint."

The project will build a new

passenger terminal facility designed to serve airlines currently operating out of Detroit's dated L.C. Smith Terminal.

The new terminal could

Designing a new terminal in the post-9/11 environment provides us with some advantages over other airports.

**WCAA CEO
Lester Robinson**

include up to 29 gates and feature new shops and restaurants; shorter walking distances and improved parking and luggage claim operations.

Other design considerations will be for luggage and security systems, new roadways to tie in the new facility and hydrant fueling operations, according to Michael Conway, WCAA communications director.

"One of the main goals of the project is to allow for future expandability for airlines who want to expand their services for customers," he said. "Another consideration is more efficient taxing of the aircrafts so passengers won't have to sit on an airplane and wait in line for the runway."

Although the project is still in early development, everyone is anxious to get started.

"We're excited to lead a first-rate design team of expert firms for the airport's new North Terminal and provide a facility that not only supports operational objectives, but also offers passenger comfort and convenience," said Bill Hartman, design principal and managing director of Gensler's Detroit office. "This is a great opportunity to design a facility that accommodates airline needs and anticipates future advances, while reflecting the unique character of Southeastern Michigan."

A conceptual drawing of the project could be available by spring 2005, said Conway.

The contract with Gensler will last until the project is complete—currently estimated in late 2008.



Dean Solomon, Romulus, accepts his local Screener of the Year award from Steve Lorincz, Transportation Security Administration assistant federal security director for screening.

THE SCENE



Taking a **CLOSER** look isn't always entertaining

Movies like *Closer* don't play well in American mega-plexes. Audiences expect tales of romance to be of the feel-good comedic variety so they can leave the theater feeling, well...good.

While the characters in *Closer*, directed by Mike Nichols (*The Graduate*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*) from Patrick Marber's stage play, seek for two hours to selfishly make themselves feel good, the audience leaves with the sour taste of lust posing as love in their mouths, a taste so bitter that no amount of soda pop or popcorn can wash it away.

It's the type of film that leaves the grouchier moviegoer saying, "That's the worst movie I've ever seen," as the credits roll—and he did.

But he's not writing this review. Worst movie ever? I wouldn't say so. Best? Wouldn't say that, either, but it does what it sets out to do, which is to explore the nastier parts of love and libidos through the intertwining relationships of four characters.

The closeness of *Closer* isn't the closeness of intimacy, though that's what the characters seem to be striving for, though none ever really achieves it. Instead, the closeness is what happens when people get too close, when layers of civility are stripped away and the others can view straight in, close up, like the pictures of strangers Julia Roberts's character, Anna, a photographer, displays in an exhibition.

And what's there up close? Well, according to Nichols and Marber, who adapted his play for the screen, the answer seems to be petty selfishness, brutal desires and the lack of conscience that allows for infidelity and betrayal.

Two of the four characters make their living, or try to, through the arts. Anna is a photographer, Dan (Jude Law) is a wannabe novelist who writes obits for a newspaper to make a living. Alice (Natalie Portman) and Larry (Clive Owen) endeavor in fleshier careers, she as a stripper and he as a dermatologist. Though it takes place in London, both of the females are American, and both men are British.

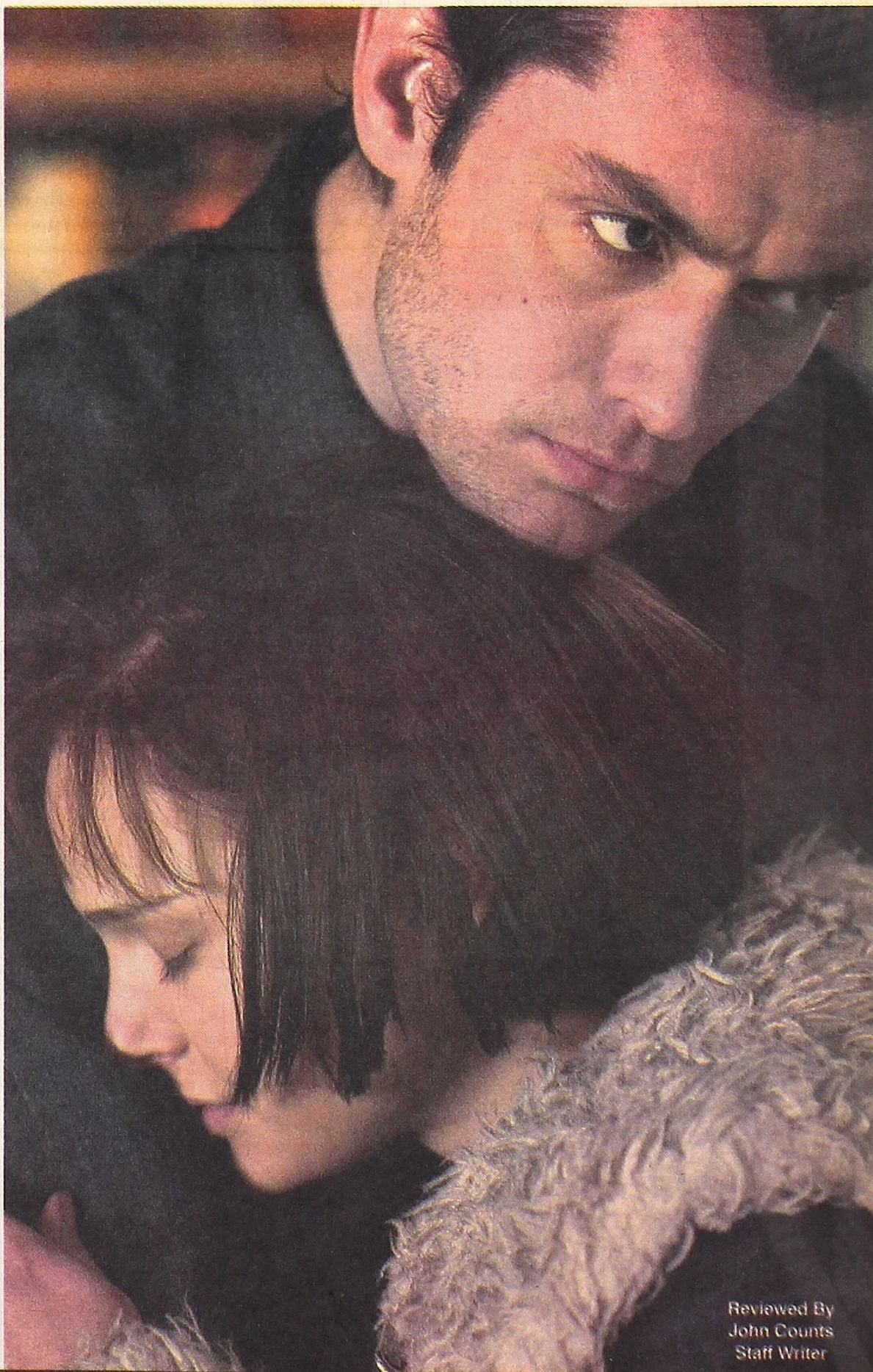
The movie seems to start off on a serendipitous romantic note—Dan watches Alice get struck by a car. This is how they meet and, eventually, fall in love. The next thing we know, it's a few years later, and Dan has written a book loosely based on Alice's hard-knock life. He is getting his book jacket photograph taken by Anna. Dan, of course, is still with Alice, but that doesn't stop him from going after Anna. But when Anna meets Larry—through a humorous exchange with Dan in an Internet chat room—complications begin to escalate, an escalation that tries to drive the entire movie.

At a certain point, we just cease to care—let them all hop into bed together and get it over with. But this is a sort-of art movie and there are human feelings to consider. So the characters hem and haw, leave and come back, proclaim their love and hatred for each other in long, drawn-out scenes that obviously played better on the stage than they do on-screen.

What the movie loses when the story of who's with who tires, it makes up for with the performances, most notably from Portman and the diabolically perverted dermatologist played by Owen. Everyone will say that this movie is such a departure for Roberts and that she was great in it, but just because she isn't smiling her way through a silly script doesn't mean her performance reaches some artistic heights.

The most refreshing aspect of a movie as sexually frank as *Closer* is its lack of any really dirty parts. Nichols knows that the audience can never see a person's dirtiest part, which is always in their head, and Marber's dialogue reveals this in a way disrobing never could.

I beg to differ with my fellow moviegoer: *Closer* isn't 'the worst movie ever' or even a bad movie. It's just not as great and revelatory as it thinks it is.



Reviewed By
John Counts
Staff Writer

The Henry Ford offers peaceful holiday oasis for visitors

Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer

In a season filled with gifts to wrap, cards to send, and frantic concerns over what to buy the person who has everything, the Henry Ford in Dearborn serves as a peaceful oasis for individuals who need a break from the high-speed pace of modern life.

While Christmas is always a time of excitement throughout the museum, this year the activities have been expanded once again, and nowhere is it more evident than Greenfield Village. During normal hours, visitors can view historic buildings from all eras, many of which are decorated inside and out for the holidays.

Inside the buildings, costumed presenters stand ready to share in the significance of the scenes presented in each room, from silhouette cutting parties to the significance of the change to sturdy glass from paper tree ornaments that were expected to be used and discarded, rather than saved and cherished. There is also a free ice-skating rink, where guests of all ages can borrow a pair of skates to take a spin around the ice. The village will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week through Jan. 2.

The evenings, however, are when the spirit of the holidays becomes the focus. From 6:30-10 p.m. on Dec. 9-11 and 17-22,

Greenfield Village will bring the past to life during their Holiday Nights program. Guests will be able to follow the path illuminated by kerosene lanterns as they step back into the past. In addition to the activities available during normal hours, the evening program also features holiday craft demonstrations, musical performances, and strolling musicians.

"We have nonstop music," said Wendy Metros, director of public relations for the Henry Ford.

Several living tableaux are also set up to give visitors a sense of life during Christmases past. Topics range from re-enactors speaking on December at Valley Forge—what the soldiers experienced as they celebrated Christmas during the American Revolution—to presentations on winter sports and sporting equipment of years past.

Guests are invited to warm themselves next to large bonfires, many of which feature musicians playing nearby.

"We end each evening with a fireworks display," said Metros. She added that while firework displays are now associated with summer, and the Fourth of July, that hasn't always been the case. "In the 18th and 19th centuries, they were a winter tradition."

The event is very popular, Metros said, so popular that individuals are urged to reserve their tickets in advance because the



Visitors to The Henry Ford and Greenfield Village can enjoy free ice skating, one of many traditional activities available, throughout the month of December as the traditions of past Christmases are exhibited.

program tends to sell out. Even Santa Claus must want to see the spectacle presented—he stops by each night with some of his reindeer.

"It's probably one of the more unique things to do during the holiday season," said Metros. "It's just a beautiful holiday event."

For individuals who would rather stay indoors as they go in search of holiday fun, Henry Ford Museum has some special activities as well. Santa Claus will visit daily from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Dec. 24, and visitors will once again have the opportunity to view the giant Christmas tree, circled by a dizzying number of model trains, that has become the trademark of the museum holiday action. This year, their seasonal display is topped off with a collection of 72 paper mache parade heads that were a part of the Thanksgiving Day parade. The heads range from whimsical aliens and animals to recognizable depictions

of cultural icons. The Parade Co. provided the heads, and the exhibit is free with museum admission.

In the Anderson Theater-located next to the museum- the Wild Swan Theater Co. will celebrate the season with a musical version of *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. Performances will take place at 2:30 p.m. on Dec. 11-12, 18-19, 21-22, and 27-30. Tickets are \$7.50 per person, and tickets may be purchased in advance or at the door if there are seats remaining. For more information, call (313) 982-6001.

For visitors more interested in the present than the past, the Henry Ford also offers a unique way to view the new Christmas film *The Polar Express* in the IMAX Theater. Metros said that the three dimensional version of the new family film proven to be a very popular holiday activities. As such, tickets tend to sell out, and anyone interested in attending a performance is encouraged

to reserve tickets in advance.

"I think the good thing about holidays at the Henry Ford is there is something for everyone," said Metros.

For more information, visit www.thehenryford.org or call (313) 982-6100. Henry Ford Museum, the IMAX Theater, and Greenfield Village are all located near the corner of Oakwood Boulevard and Village Road in Dearborn. It is located west of the Southfield Freeway and just south of Michigan Avenue. The Henry Ford will be closed on Christmas Day.



Historic Greenfield Village provides the perfect backdrop for Christmas carolers, Santa Claus and more during the Holiday Nights program, which runs from 6:30-10 p.m. Dec. 9-11 and 17-22.

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FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS (PG-13)
7:15, 9:40
FRI/SAT LS 12:00

SHARK TALE (PG)
12:40, 2:45, 4:50

BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON (R)
12:15, 4:40, 9:15
FRI/SAT LS 11:30

THE GRUDGE (PG-13)
1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40
FRI/SAT LS 11:40

SHALL WE DANCE (PG-13) 2:30, 7:10

THE INCREDIBLES (PG) 2 PRINTS / 2 SCREENS
11:50, 12:30, 2:10, 2:50, 4:30, 5:10, 6:50, 7:30,
9:10, 9:45
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The 6% excess contribution penalty applies to all future years until a corrective distribution is taken. You can also reduce or eliminate an excess contribution by forgoing all or part of your allowable IRA contribution in future years.

Assume you are eligible to contribute \$3,000 to your IRAs in 2004. If you contribute \$4,000 and don't take a corrective distribution, the excess \$1,000

is subject to the 6% penalty. During the next year, you make no contribution, but are eligible to do so. You can apply the \$1,000 excess contribution from 2004 to 2005, and no penalty will be due for 2005.

IRAs are a great planning tool, but excess contribution penalties can quickly eliminate their tax advantage. Contribution rules can be complex, so it is often best to seek professional assistance. For details or assistance, give us a call.

Listen to Fred Grant's radio show "Inside Small Business" every weekend on or call Fred at 734-455-1040



It Really Is About Covering Your Assets

We discussed documenting assets for new home purchases, when in "demand" type accounts, i.e. savings, checking and money markets. What if the down payment isn't coming from a demand account?

What if it is in stocks, bonds or mutual funds?

Often, down payments come from any number of sources. What will lenders want for "investment" accounts?

These are usually owned through brokerages. Account holders receive monthly or quarterly statements. You will need to provide the lender with your most recent 30 or 60-day history. Provide all pages, even if blank or showing service contact information. If you are selling shares, "paper trail" the transaction period. Include a copy of the check and the deposit receipt. These funds typically are not guaranteed. Meaning, your bank will hold these monies until cleared. Please allow sufficient time.

For Internet accounts, printed screens are typically unacceptable. Requirements do vary so check to determine what is satisfactory. Stock certificates, though rare, must be copied along with tax records to verify time of ownership.

"Investment" accounts used for down payment must be verified like "demand" accounts. It is essential to qualifying and closing on your loan for your new home. Always consult your loan officer for specific requirements. For further information, contact Nelson Wilson at 1-800-LOW-WEST



Nelson Wilson
AVP-Senior Loan Officer
The West Team/Chase Home Finance

"Investment" accounts used for down payment must be verified like "demand" accounts. It is essential to qualifying and closing on your loan for your new home."

Privacy Policies and Websites Protecting Your Customer's Confidential Information

Every business that receives information about customers through their website needs a privacy policy. California recently enacted a law requiring a commercial website that collects "personally identifiable information" from California residents to post a privacy policy. Since the web is not geographically specific, all commercial websites are potentially affected. Other states likely will follow. Here are important issues to consider when forming privacy policies. First, is the policy appropriate for your website? Many businesses have "form" policies that may not reflect the actual business conducted on the website. This could result in omissions of required elements, or overbroad policies that may not be appropriate. Ensure that all applicable local and federal laws are followed. Consider third parties with which your site is affiliated. Confirm that they are not using information obtained from your website. Beware of cookies, spyware, and other pitfalls.

A privacy policy will help protect the rights of your customers and the security and reputation of your business. Follow the terms of your privacy policy flawlessly. If policy and practice conflict, costly lawsuits and negative publicity may arise. Consulting with an attorney before implementing a policy is highly recommended.



Jill Goldstein
Attorney & Counselor at Law

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End Of Year Tips on Asset-Based Giving

For many people, charitable giving is motivated by humanitarian concern as a way to leave a legacy to a favorite charity or a particular institution. In addition, charitable gifts offer donors the option of reducing income taxes in the year the donation is made or deferring the tax benefits until later.

Of course, annual cash gifts continue to represent a traditional method of giving to not-for-profit organizations, but asset-based gifts are worth considering because of their advantages to the investor as well as the charity.

Gifts of stocks, bonds, and cash are generally called immediate donations. You could also consider including a not-for-profit organization in your will, and your heirs will be able to take advantage of estate-tax savings.

If you're considering donating some stock to a charity, there are a number of benefits. Let's assume that you invested \$5,000 five years ago in a stock or bond that is now worth \$10,000. If you sell it, you'll have to pay a commission, plus tax on the \$5,000 gain. Even at the new maximum 20% capital-gains rate, that will be a tax bite of \$1,000—reducing the effective value of your security to \$9,000 available to give to the charity.

But if instead you transfer the security to the organization directly, the charity gets the full \$10,000 value. You get to deduct the full \$10,000 on your tax return. You have no capital gain, so there's no tax to pay. And you haven't sold it, so there's no commission.

It's important to point out that as long as you're still alive, gifts of life insurance or retirement benefits or similar donations can be revoked if the beneficiary designation is changed. Since these revocable gifts are a promise to be fulfilled at a later date, they will appeal mostly to donors who want to plan a major gift immediately but also want the option of retrieving the assets if an emergency occurs. The disadvantage for these kinds of gifts is that they don't qualify for a charitable income-tax deduction.

Other charitable contributions, such as gifts to charitable trusts or pooled income funds are called irrevocable gifts because once initiated, the donations of assets cannot be retrieved. These gifts do qualify for charitable income-tax deductions in the year the donation is made.

If you're considering a donation to a not-for-profit organization, I encourage you to call and discuss the matter with myself or your other financial advisors. While the tax benefits can be great and the good will is good for your heart, there are many options. It's not as hard as it may sound, however, you want to make sure you find the right plan for your objectives.

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[illegible]

OPINION

Time marches on

The conflict between hunters and residents is hardly a new one in Canton Township.

We've found editorials about the issue dating back more than 30 years, to 1971, in our archives. Those opinions stressed the need to study any potential legislation that prohibits hunting before anything was approved.

Obviously, things have changed a lot since then. There are more subdivisions, people and businesses, and fewer fields, trees and farmers. The population boom that started shortly after that 1971 editorial was written is still going on and, let's face it, hunting is an activity that just isn't practical in Canton Township any longer.

Officials in the once-rural township have tackled the issue in several different ways in the past. The police department has provided hunter safety classes. The 30-year-old opinion even mentioned a ban against using firearms within 450 feet of a residence.

The latest attempt, to ban the use of all firearms in the township, is the most direct and probably the best way to go. As long as provisions are made to allow for more recreational uses – BB guns, paint ball guns and the like – an ordinance banning the use of firearms is one whose time has come.

There may be some hunters left around who will complain about it. There may be some farmers or other residents who will point out that they are not allowed to 'take care' of pests in their fields and gardens. But township officials have to be concerned with one overriding factor: the safety of their residents. The township has already received accolades for the overall safety of the community and this will only help.

There are still some people who move to the western portion of the township because they like that rural feeling as well as the general proximity to many city-like amenities – a busy shopping district, plenty of restaurants, banks and the like. Even they, however, probably wouldn't put the distant booming of shotguns or the sharp cracks of rifle reports on their list of things they enjoy about this form of pseudo-country living.

It's a shame that sparsely populated areas are vanishing throughout the State of Michigan, and hunters will have to go further and further to find the sport to which they have become accustomed. But we don't see any alternative.

State fails 'reality test'

Last week, hundreds of concerned school officials and parents attended a meeting designed to talk about school funding, a sort of school funding 101 presentation.

The main goal of the meeting was to educate them about Proposal A, which set the formula for how schools are funded, essentially changing it from a property tax base to a sales tax base. Proposal A was designed to provide more parity in school funding and it has worked, to some degree. The problem is that it works better in a good economy and, well, everyone knows that the economy hasn't been good in a while.

Those school officials who attended said they thought they got their message across to parents, who were probably a sympathetic ear, to begin with.

It's too bad, though, that they apparently didn't get their message across to the legislature. Keith Ledbetter, press secretary for House of Representatives Speaker Rick Johnson, has touted the party line, saying that the state is suffering everywhere. The complaints were unwarranted, he added.

That's an interesting claim and it should trouble school officials everywhere.

See **Reality**, page 9



Once more with enthusiasm

It was easy to feel optimistic about the future of Wayne after a special meeting last week involving several city officials and business leaders and a professor of architecture in charge of a unique program.

The program, undertaken by Prof. Andrew Von Maur and his crew from Andrews University, is an ambitious one that takes several fifth-year architecture students to a community for a week-long field trip. Once there they meet with city officials, residents, business owners – anyone they can – as they take separate trips around the town and then brainstorm ideas for ways to positively impact development patterns.

They package it all up into a neat little binder full of schematic drawings, suggestions and architectural insight and present it to the community to do with as they will.

The bulk of the presentation had more to do with Plymouth, IN – where the group is working this year – than the City of Wayne, although the parallels were there and the proverbial door that could lead to a full relationship was at least slightly ajar.

There was a good turn out of Wayne folks, if you consider the number and types of city officials that were there. Young and old alike, members of the Wayne

2020 Committee, the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Board, city administration, city council and the planning commission. If you factored out everyone that was either related to those people or there for their job (like me, in part), then the representation from the regular citizenry was a little sad, though.

But for the most part, the peo-

So it was a good sign that they were generally interested in the program, which would cost at least \$12,000.

ple in the room were the stakeholders, the ones that would actually bring this study program to Wayne or not. It would most likely be funded by the DDA, so that board needed to see it. It's already been wholeheartedly endorsed by the Wayne 2020 Committee – one of its members, Don Fulton, was virtually solely responsible for finding out about the program and getting the attention of Von Maur. The city council will have the final say,

though, because they approve or reject all expenditures, even if they come through the DDA.

So it was a good sign that they were generally interested in the program, which would cost at least \$12,000. It was also a good sign that the professor himself seemed intrigued by our city; he said it would present a challenge to his students – because this is, above all, a learning exercise for them – and that he thought Wayne would be a good fix.

When asked what he looks for when he evaluates a project to take on, he answered that he wanted to see some enthusiasm from the community, including the residents, which is why I was disappointed to see so few show up, other than those aforementioned members. Certainly there exists a willingness to spark downtown revitalization; there's an excitement bubbling about our city that I've noticed for the past year or more and a youthful impatience behind it.

The city hasn't signed on the dotted line yet, and there's no real reason to hurry. This is something that won't even begin until next fall, so there's no reason to jump on it right away. It does sound like a good idea,

See **Professor**, page 9

Time to wash those dirty hands

When I was a boy growing up in Georgia, we worked hard and we played hard. And come supertime, you knew without having to be told, to wash your hands.

Now there's a simple way for all of us to help keep ourselves and others healthy – just by washing our hands. Not just when they're dirty, but just out of habit.

If you petted a dog or other animal, before and after you've prepared food, if you've taken out the trash, coughed or sneezed, wash those hands.

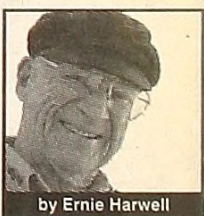
All it takes is a little soap, some warm water and about 20 seconds of scrubbing, followed by a rinse and a dry with a clean towel.

Just the simple act of washing can help remove germs and keep you and others from picking up a bug that can lead to a cold, the flu or even more serious infections.

And remember, take care of your health before it's lonnggg gone!

Ernie Harwell, "the voice of the Detroit Tigers" for more than four decades, retired after 55 years behind a major league micro-

phone. Today, at age 86, Ernie's days are filled with serving as a health and fitness advocate for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network, public appearances, writing, traveling and taking long walks with "Miss Lulu," his wife of more than 60 years. His latest book, a collection of his baseball columns titled "Life After Baseball," is available at local bookstores or by calling 1-800-245-5082.



by Ernie Harwell

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Reality

FROM PAGE 8

If these claims are, indeed, unwarranted, then what brought officials from 34 school districts throughout Wayne County to the meeting last week? They shared a common goal, a common concern.

Many of them have already made cuts in services, staff. They've eliminated things like field trips, expenses for teacher and administrative conferences. They've beaten the ground for grants to help supplement their services. Others have felt punished for their fiscal responsibility during the past several years, and have dipped into their fund balances in order to provide the same level of service to children despite frozen foundation allowances and increasing staff costs. Their balances are now dangerously close to the red flag point, as described by their respective auditors.

It must come as a shock to

them that their complaints are unwarranted. It does to us.

It's true that the economy is bad all around the state, and the nation. It's true that Michigan has been slower to recover than many of its neighbors, in part because of its reliance on manufacturing jobs, which are disappearing. And it's also true that education is among the top areas funded by the state, despite all of this.

It borders on an insult, though, to tell so many officials – who have grappled with these problems at the local level, where the outrage from parents is more visible, more vocal – that they've got nothing to complain about. They have, for the most part, done their job. They've cut down costs where they could. They've streamlined their budgets and in some cases reduced staff to the point where any further cuts will jeopardize the ability of students to get the best education possible.

They've done their part and they deserve some help.

Unwarranted? We don't think so.

Professor

FROM PAGE 8

though, particularly at the bargain price of \$12,000. It's a relatively small expense for the DDA and it should be an even smaller portion of the DDA budget next year, given the additional funding that will come in from the Ford Motor plant expansions.

It might be easy to discount the plan, though, given the extent

of the development and redevelopment already under way. It's just the nature of these things, that plans put into motion long ago take a while to materialize, like the condominium project on the corner of Michigan Avenue and Wayne Road.

Still, it can be a good thing to listen to another take on the same issue, and view it with new eyes and new people, particularly when those new people can say: Hmm, well, I like what you've done so far...

'Computer Cop' software offered

John Counts
Staff Writer

The Canton Police Department vow to protect and serve is now extending into cyberspace.

The department is offering a free software program to Canton residents worried about their children's activities on the Internet.

According to Sgt. Scott Hilden, there is a lot of questionable material on the Internet that isn't suitable for children.

"There's a lot of criminal activity on there," he said. "It's a place where predators can try and lure children into bad activities."

The 'Computer Cop' software system enables parents to sift through what has been viewed on an individual computer. The software automatically searches a computer's hard-drive for pictures and words that relate to drugs, alcohol or violence.

Parents then have the option of deleting questionable files. According to Hilden, the files may not just be inappropriate, but illegal.

"It's a very simple program," Hilden explained. "It lets you know where your computer has been. I highly recommend that parents use it."

The software comes in the form of a disc that is designed for use with IBM-style computers with Windows operating system. The computer must have 4 MB of RAM to operate the software.

The software can be obtained free of charge at the front desk of the Canton Police Department by Canton residents only.

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Charities seeking donations throughout area

Red Kettle bells ring

The Salvation Army will have 26 locations around Western Wayne County to generate funds during the holiday season as part of their Red Kettle campaign. The Belleville donation locations include: Kmart on Rawsonville Road, the post office, Wal-Mart and Farmer Jack on Belleville Road and Ace Hardware on Sumpter Road. The money that is raised will stay in the local areas to provide families and individuals with food, clothing, emergency shelter, rent and utilities throughout the year.

Big Boy Operation Can Do

The 27th annual "Operation Can Do," a food drive organized by Big Boy Restaurants International LLC, will run through Dec. 31. Donations of nonperishable items in their original cans or boxes will be accepted at participating Big Boy restaurants. The

Belleville Big Boy is located at 10705 Belleville Road. For more information, call 734-699-1313.

Girlstown Foundation seeks donations

The Girlstown Foundation in Belleville will accept donations from their Christmas wish list throughout the month. Non-perishable gifts will go to the programs and services at the foundation, specifically the loch rio program, the transitional treatment program and the supervised independent living program. The wish list includes: clothing items, shoes, accessories and personal items, school supplies and household products. To donate, call the foundation at 734-697-7242.

Goodfellows continue collection

The Goodfellows of Belleville and Van Buren Township will collect toys and canned goods to provide for the more than 250 fami-

lies in need around the area. They will also begin passing out their newspaper for donations as well as collect mittens, gloves, hats and scarves to be distributed. For more information about drop-off locations, or how you can contribute, call 734-699-8930.

Civic club accepting donations

The Sumpter Social Civic Club, a part of the Goodfellows, will collect food and toys, and pass out of the newspapers for donations. Items can be dropped off at the club, located at 19867 Sumpter Road. For more information, call 734-697-7797.

Women's club aids church

The Belleville Business and Professional Women (BPW) will collect food and clothing to be donated to the First United Methodist Church in Belleville.

Businesses collect toys

Both Curves for Women, located at 51 Fifth St., and Storage U.S.A., located at 1900 Rawsonville Road, have boxes in their stores now until Christmas for toy collections. Curves will also have a special drawing for people who donate. The winner will receive one free month at Curves. For more information, call curves at 734-697-2000, or Storage U.S.A. at 734-483-7720.

Gym collecting coats

The Powerhouse Gym in Belleville is collecting coats for kids in need. They will have a box through Dec. 22 at their office located at 11780 Belleville Road. The gym is open Monday through Friday, 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. All coat contributions are welcome.

Santa arrives at Maybury Farm

Scott Spielman
Editor

Shari Peters, executive director of the Northville Community Foundation, said she's expecting a special guest on Sunday at the farm at Maybury State Park.

She said Santa Claus is taking time from his busy pre-holiday schedule to visit with children at the welcome center in the park. She expects him at about 1 p.m.

"He's going to come in either a sleigh or a hay wagon, weather depending," Peters said. He'll stay until 4 p.m., taking Christmas requests from children.

Northville Camera will also be on hand to document Santa's arrival and donate sittings by

interested parents. Proofs for purchase will be available one week later with a portion of all proceeds from photos coming to Maybury Farm.

There will be several activities going on at the same time, she said. There will be Christmas wreaths and other items for sale, too. The proceeds from that will help support the living farm at Maybury State Park. The Northville Community Foundation has worked with the State of Michigan to provide funding for the farm since it was destroyed by fire in February of 2003.

Since then the foundation has sponsored a variety of fundraisers with the hopes of generating an

endowment fund of at least \$1 million to pay for the ongoing operation and maintenance of the park.

The Sunday arrival of Santa isn't the only seasonally-themed activity going on, either. Peters said that children will be able to string popcorn for the huge, fresh-cut Christmas tree at the welcome center and are encouraged to bring in handmade ornaments to decorate it.

"We just want to create some excitement with the kids," she said.

The center is open from 1-4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays for the wreath sale.

Santa will also be at Maybury Farm from 1-4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 19.

Compassionate Friends ceremony set

Scott Spielman
Editor

Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth will be the site of a special remembrance Sunday.

Beginning at 7 p.m. the soft glow of hundreds of candles will light the park as part of a world wide candle-lighting ceremony hosted by the Compassionate Friends.

The Compassionate Friends is a support group for families that have lost a child, according to Antoinette Oddy, a member of the group. They have chapters throughout the world, and the western Wayne County group is based in Westland.

They have used the centrally-located Kellogg Park in Plymouth for several years, she said. The group will also have a tree decorated in the

park with the names of lost loved ones inscribed on ornaments.

The event is designed to be a continuous 24-hour memorial, she said.

"As candles burn down in one time zone, they light up in another," she said. "It's a 24-hour ceremony."

She said the event takes place during December because holidays are a particularly try-

ing time for families that have lost a child. For those who want to get involved in the effort, or register a child, can call or email Gail Lafferty at (734) 981-4528 or angel4gail@aol.com; or Virginia Herrick at (248) 449-7598 herick@millerandfield.com.

She said the event is always very moving.

"It's just beautiful," she said. "It's like a triumphant shining in the sky for our children."

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Group helps make school area a bit safer

Andrea King
Staff Writer

A new benevolent fund has helped out a school in the Van Buren school district and the organizers of the Van Buren Township Civic Fund said it's only the beginning.

"We want to do as much good as we can but still have funds so it's viable to last a long time," said Township Supervisor Cindy King. "We want this fund to have a lasting impact on the community. Our mission is to enhance the quality of life for Van Buren Township residents."

King, along with civic fund member Beverly Jenkins and Lydia Allen from Visteon, presented Tyler Elementary School with a \$22,330 contribution to the school district at the regular school board meeting recently. The contribution will fund the purchase and installation of two fiber-optic changeable message signs that will be placed on either side of Tyler Road to help curtail speeding near the school.

While the civic fund has chosen to fund the cost of installation, it will not pay for future maintenance and energy fees. Van Buren Public Schools has agreed to do so, according to King.

"We're very appreciative of something we have been trying to pursue for several years," said Peggy Voight, principal at Tyler Elementary. "It has always been out of our budget, so it's very nice that Visteon would consider this a worthy project."

"We want to do as much good as we can but still have funds so it's viable to last a long time. We want this fund to have a lasting impact on the community."

Supervisor Cindy King

"With all the traffic on Tyler Road, I know that the parents will feel much better now with the road crossing signs," added Voight. "This is very near and dear to our hearts."

Visteon Corp. and Van Buren Township joined forces in April to create the not-for-profit organization to generate money to support projects and services in Van Buren Township. Their goal is to raise \$1.5 million by the end of the year. Visteon donated \$500,000 to start the fund and will match dollar-for-dollar donations by area residents and businesses.

"If we can get contributions from other sources, Visteon would match that in hopes to raise \$1.5 million," said King. "We hope for this to be around a long time. One hundred years from now, I expect the Van Buren Civic Fund will still be a vibrant part of our township."

The Van Buren Civic Fund Board of Directors includes: Father John Hagan of Trinity Episcopal Church, resident Scott Jones, Anne Porster from Grand River Printing and Imaging who will serve as treasurer; resident Robert Thorne, who will serve as secretary; Jenkins, who will serve as president; Norm Johnson, director of governmental and community affairs for Visteon and King.

The fund also donated \$8,000 to the Belleville Area Museum to be used for a new public address system.

The organization will not fund any other project until additional guidelines are in place. King said that they wanted to demonstrate to the community what their intent is and, once the requirements are set, more projects will take place. Possible donations will go to general operational needs, building improvements and recreational organizations.

"Our future projects are still unknown, but we are concerned with projects that can benefit many people, but remain in the area," said King. "In other communities my colleagues are always asking how we did this. We are very fortunate and grateful to have a fund to do these types of things."

King said the group is actively seeking contributions which can be mailed to township hall at 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111.

"Even if it's only \$10 you would like to contribute, Visteon will match that to make it \$20."

OBITUARIES

MONTIE, Louise

Louise Elizabeth Montie, 87, a Belleville resident for 38 years, died Nov. 27.

Among her survivors are her children, Linda E. (Craig) Stewart of Brighton and Lionel E. Montie, Jr., both of Belleville; brothers, Vito "Buddy" Montabana and Frances M. Conley, both of Forestdale, AL, and a granddaughter, Stephanie E. Stewart.

Funeral services were at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Belleville where Mrs. Montie was a member of the Ladies Guild, the Ladies Prayer Group and the Altar Society. She was also a member of the September Days Senior Citizens.

Father Thomas Cusick officiated at the services.

Arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home.

ADKINS, Dennis "Denny" D. Sr.

Dennis "Denny" Adkins, Sr., 47, a lifelong resident of the Belleville area, died Dec. 5.

Among his survivors are his wife of more than 24 years, Theresa L y n n (Montgomery) A d k i n s ; Children, Katrina Adkins and Dennis D. Adkins, Jr., both of Belleville; his grandmother, Nora Adkins of Huntington, W. VA; a sister, Donita Adkins of St. Petersburg FLA, and a brother, Donald Adkins of Allen Park.

Funeral ser-

vices were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home with the Rev. John N. Grenfell III officiating.

Interment was at Hillside Cemetery in Belleville.

SPIEGEL, James B.

James B. Spiegel, 65, of Romulus, died Dec. 2.

Among his survivors are his sisters, Teresa Smith of Pennsylvania and Rosemary Littleton of Romulus, and a niece, Lorrie Littleton of Belleville.

Funeral services were at the Crane Funeral Home with Father Festus Ejimadu of St. Aloysius Catholic Church officiating.

Interment was at Romulus Cemetery in Romulus.

MACIOLEK, William B.

William B. Maciolek, 60, of Monroe, died Dec. 1.

Among his survivors are his sons, Joseph, Robert, Christopher and William B. Maciolek, Jr.; a daughter, Jennifer (AC) Franklin; a brother, Christopher L. Maciolek, Jr.;

sisters, Ardis Ann and Suzanne M. Maciolek; two grandchildren, and foster children Donald, Keena and Amber.

Funeral services were at St. Stephen Catholic Church with Father Alexander Wytrowski officiating.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Crane Funeral Home.

ROUNDTREE, John G.

John G., Roundtree, Sr., 84, of Westland, died Nov. 15.

Among his survivors are his wife Edith R. (McCoy) Roundtree; children, Kay (I. Donald) Penson of Dublin, OH and John Gregory II; granddaughter, Jill, and godson, Dr. Paul Christopher Walker.

Mr. Roundtree was an assistant principal with the Detroit Public Schools. He was a Master Sergeant with the Civilian Conservation Corps, later becoming a chapter president. He was involved with the Tuskegee Airmen for many years.

Mr. Roundtree worked at

Rouge Steel, the U.S. Post Office and the Detroit Department of Street and Railways while pursuing his college degree in education. He earned his masters degree while teaching full time.

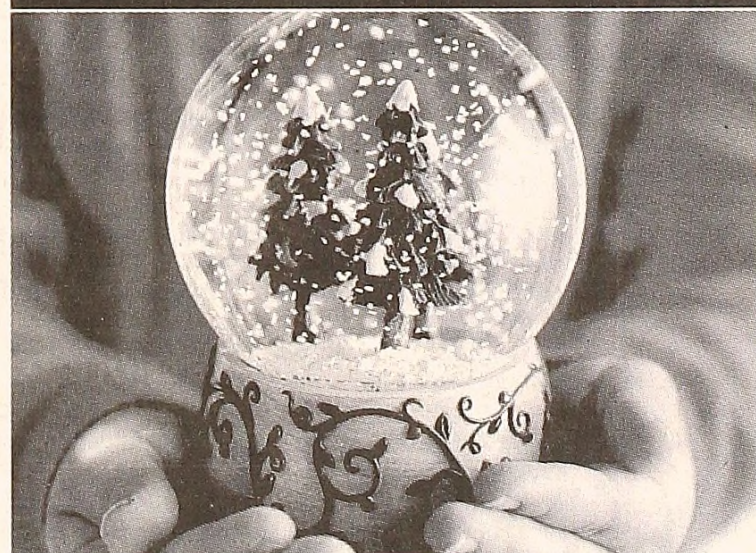
Mr. Roundtree was active with the Detroit Institute of Arts-Friends of Africa Art (Bal

African), New Detroit, Wayne State Alumni, Michigan Tax Review Board and the Yankee Air Museum.

Funeral services were at Peoples Community Church in Detroit.

Interment was at Cadillac Memorial Gardens in Westland.

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DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN NOTICE TO THE TAXPAYERS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

The **BOARD OF REVIEW** of the Charter Township of Van Buren will meet at the Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road on Tuesday, December 14th, 2004 at 3:00 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting will be to correct clerical errors or mutual mistakes of fact

Property assessments can only be changed for :
1. Homestead exemption status.
2. Poverty exemptions.

Any property owner who believes they qualify under items 1 or 2 should call Van Buren Township Assessing Department at 734.699.8946 prior to December 14, 2004.

Joannie Payne, CMC
Van Buren Charter Township

Publish: December 9, 2004

Lions Club seeks members

A new Lions Club is being chartered in the tri-community Belleville area.

"We need 20 good citizens to step forward to help us form our new Lions Club," said Charles Mott, organizer of the club. "At the present time we only have a few members. You can help by becoming a new charter member. By participating in this new Lions Club, you can help meet pressing needs in your own community

and have a meaningful impact on the health and well being of people around the world."

Anyone interested membership or seeking more information, can contact the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce at 734-697-7151.

"We encourage women as well as men to become lions. It's good for you and great for the community," he added.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR CANDIDATE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS November 30, 2004

Supervisor King: The Township Board has had an opportunity to review your resume and application. We have also viewed your video presentation (apologies to Mr. Buck for his being cut short due to technical difficulties) articulating your interest in the position of Director of Public Safety and why you feel you are the person most qualified and most capable of filling this executive level position. We are also aware of the additional employment testing and background investigations that have been conducted. In addition, the Board is in receipt of information regarding your current employment, past supervisory experience and your knowledge of the various components of public safety. We know you have read the Kelly & Stone Operation & Management Study of the Van Buren Department of Public Safety. Following are questions both finalists will be asked to answer. Please be brief.

Trustee Jahr's questions:

1. Please describe your first 90 days on the job.
2. Describe the leadership skills you will utilize to create a desire for the members of the department to follow your lead. How will you know if those skills are successful?

Trustee Rochowiak's questions:

3. Who determines the level of service to be provided to the community?
4. Describe how you will communicate to the Board the department's goals and objectives. How will you communicate those goals and objectives with the community?

Trustee Herman's questions:

5. What is your greatest concern about taking over as Director of Public Safety?
6. What will the department be like on your one-year anniversary? Describe it.

Treasurer Budd's questions:

7. Explain your financial expertise including the amount of funding for which you are currently directly responsible and your experience in preparing budgets.
8. Explain your experience with voter-approved millage. Have you worked on millage campaigns and if so, were they successful? Explain your efforts to seek alternative funding, for instance, grants or private-public partnerships.

Trustee Hart's questions:

9. If a small number of sworn officers voted "no confidence" in your management, what would you do?
10. Tell us about a supervisory error you have made. How did you rectify the matter? What did you learn from it?

Clerk Payne's questions:

11. Describe a role model you have learned from and what you admire in this person. If we were to ask someone who considers you a role model why they think of you as one, what would that person say?
12. Today's workforce is more diverse than ever. How do you define diversity, sensitivity or awareness? How do you create a work environment that is tolerant and respectful? Be specific.

Supervisor King's questions:

13. Van Buren Township is a community undergoing considerable change. Being new to the township, how do you address that change with employees? The community?
14. Upon completion of your employment with Van Buren, what would you like the plaque we give you to read?

Publish: December 9, 2004

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 30, 2004

Supervisor King called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: King, Payne, Budd, Hart, Herman, Jahr and Rochowiak. Absent and excused: None. Others in attendance: Deputy Public Safety Director Smolen, Lieutenant Brooks, Executive Assistant Ireland, Secretary Cline and an audience of fourteen (14).

Payne moved, Budd seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

Supervisor King introduced members of the Public Safety Committee as follows: Lianne Clair, Raymond Bailey, Joe Roberts and Max Johnson. Supervisor King reviewed the paperwork provided to the Board as follows: memos from Supervisor King containing the process up to this point, a synopsis of each candidate's resume; written applications and resumes; and a short video tape of interviews with Bill Kelly and Tom Stone. A copy of interview questions; and candidates ranking sheet were provided to the Board prior to start of the meeting.

Supervisor King stated the Township has been without a Director of Public Safety since July 2003. In October 2003, the Board entered into a contract with Bill Kelly and Tom Stone to evaluate the operations of the Department of Public Safety and made recommendations for improving upon service. Since the Board was facing a second vacancy in the position in a four-year period, the study was needed prior to filling the Director's position. In May 2004, the Board received the Operation and Management Study of the Van Buren Public Safety Department. Following the submission of the report, the Board retained Kelly and Stone to assist in finding a suitable person to serve as the Public Safety Director. A search for candidates commenced by advertising on the Township's website, the Detroit Free Press/News and a variety of professional organizations including the Michigan Townships Association, the Michigan Municipal League and the Michigan Chiefs of Police Association.

Letters of interest were received from 64 individuals; of the 64 interested individuals, 23 candidates met the following minimum requirements: Bachelor's degree in public administration, public safety/emergency management, criminal justice, fire science or related field; C.O.L.E.S. certification as a police officer and/or Firefighter I and II training; Graduation from FBI Academy, National Fire Academy or similar training; and eight or more years of progressively responsible experience in command positions including supervisory and administrative duties. Of the 23 candidates that were interviewed in September, eight were selected for further evaluation. Candidates were given a written assessment administered by Bartell & Bartell, Ltd. Between October 28th and October 30th Kelly and Stone conducted lengthy interviews with the eight candidates that Supervisor King attend as an observer. Based on information contained in the candidates' resumes and applications, the Bartell & Bartell assessment results, and the interviews Gerald Champagne and John Buck were selected as final candidates to be interviewed by the Township Board. Mr. Champagne is currently the Deputy Chief of the Romulus Police Department. Mr. Buck is presently the Deputy Chief of the Redford Township Police Department. Both have many years in the law enforcement profession with basic knowledge of fire operations. Both men are highly regarded by their Police Chiefs, and the Mayor and Township Supervisor of their respective communities. Supervisor King stated one candidate said, the person selected to serve as Director of Public Safety cannot fail in his mission to restore leadership to the Van Buren Public Safety Department. Supervisor King addressed the Public Safety Committee stating they are community representatives and a recommending body to the Board and if time allows they will be afforded an opportunity to ask questions of the candidates. Finally she noted that this meeting is being broadcast "live".

Supervisor King advised that both candidates would be asked the same series of 14 questions (attached to the minutes) and commenced introducing John Buck, the first candidate to be interviewed.

Supervisor King thanked the candidate for coming.

Hart moved, Payne seconded to recess at 7:05 p.m. Carried.

The Special Board Meeting was reconvened at 7:20 p.m.

Supervisor King again reviewed the background information and introduced Gerald Champagne the second candidate to be interviewed.

Supervisor King thanked the candidate for coming.

A list of the first fourteen questions follows the minutes. In addition to the questions listed additional questions were posed to the candidates from members of the Board of Trustees, Public Safety Committee and audience members.

ADJOURNMENT: Rochowiak moved, Hart seconded to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Township Clerk

Cindy C. King
Supervisor

Publish: December 9, 2004

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**INKSTER**

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**WAYNE**

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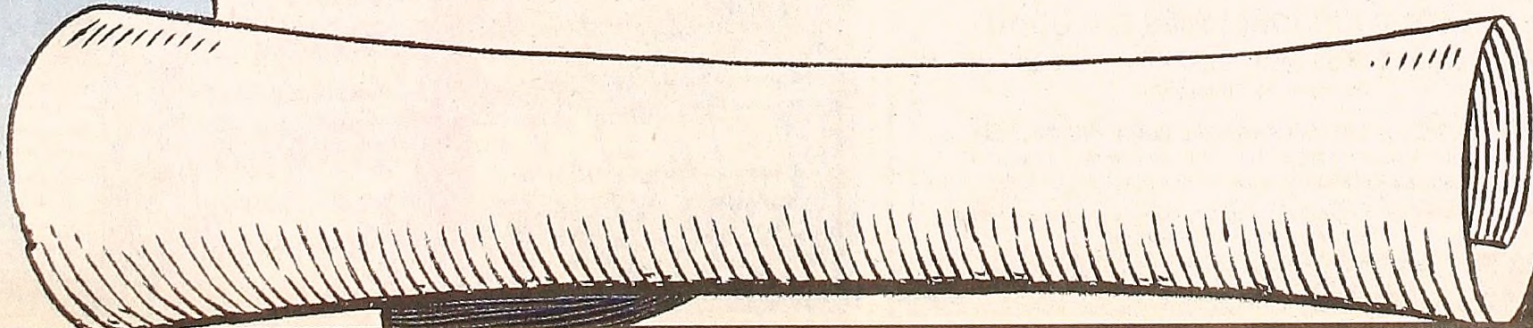
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ROMULUS

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Village Theatre celebrates holiday season with music

John Counts
Staff Writer

The Village Theater in Canton's Cherry Hill Village is celebrating its first holiday season with a schedule sure to rouse the holiday spirit in even the most cantankerous of Scrooges.

Jennifer Tobin, arts director for the leisure services department, said it's been a wonderful two months since the theater opened in September. Now, with the holiday season upon us, she said it's a perfect time for those who haven't been to the theater to visit.

Tobin said there's something

for everyone at the theater this year.

Under the direction of Janine Grady-Creedon, the Canton Community Chorus will perform at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow. The chorus, like the theater, is new this year. It features local vocalists ranging in age from 5 to 18. They will be performing a selection of holiday tunes. Tickets are \$8.

Starting at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, the Canton Community Band will take the theater stage to perform A Sleigh Ride Celebration. Formed earlier this year, the band that started off as a rag-tag group of eight members has blossomed into a musical

force with nearly 60 members. Under the direction of Jim Blough, the band comprises community members who were encouraged to dust off their old instruments and join up. Tobin said it's important for music-lovers to come out and support such an effort—and hear some great holiday tunes as well. Tickets are \$8.

Next up, starting at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 13, the Boogie Woogie Babies will perform a Broadway review: Jump, Jive and Wail.

"These are incredibly talented women with a lot of energy," Tobin said.

The three women, hailing from

Michigan's west coast, near the Grand Rapids area, the 'babies' have performed all over the state and have received training in New York City. Tickets are \$10.

The night after that, starting at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 14, the prestigious Detroit Brass will appear for a holiday concert.

"This is a fabulous brass group playing lots of favorites that will pick up your holiday spirit," Tobin said.

Tickets for the Detroit Brass Holiday Concert are \$12.

At 7 p.m. on Dec. 16, The Celebration Youth Orchestra, an out-growth of the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra, will per-

form. It will feature two ensembles, the Celebration Sinfonia and the Celebration Strings. Tickets are \$8.

The final performance at the Village Theater before Christmas is the Dearing Concert Duo. Starting at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 21, the duo, featuring vocalist and flautist Abha Dearing and guitarist Steven Dearing, will bring classical music to the theater.

"They are very good. It's a wonderful presentation," Tobin said.

Tickets are \$15.

For information about tickets or performances, call (734) 394-5460.

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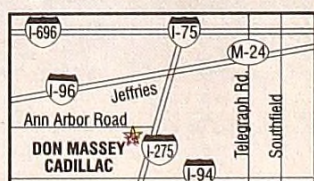
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Field trip

Eighth graders travel to mall for lessons in use of math

Scott Spielman
Editor

About 70 students from Franklin Middle School in Wayne took a field trip to a hectic environment on Friday: Westland Mall, at the height of the holiday shopping season.

The students took on the mall shoppers as part of their math curriculum, according to Val Orr, the eighth grade math teacher at the school, not as a way to get an early start on their own shopping.

She said they curriculum module they're working on now is all about percentages, probability and discounts, and the mall made the ideal location for the trip.

"I just figured the best way for them to learn it was to go out in the real world," she said. "They don't have to buy anything."

The students broke up into several groups, each guided by a parent chaperone. They visited several different stores and had an assignment at each one, she said.

They had to take on comparison shopping, where they had to find the best deal on a pair of Adidas Superstar tennis shoes. They visited several stores, marked down the original and sale price and then plotted the range of prices and determined the median sale price. They then had to write down their conclusions about that particular assignment.

Then they had to visit FYE and determine how much they were saving on a number of CDs that were on sale. They also had to take on their own survey, standing or sitting in front of JCPenney and keeping track of everyone who entered the store—male and female. They then had to calculate the probability that a man or a woman would enter the store.

"It's a great way for them to see that what they're learning in class refers to real life," Orr said.

The students said they enjoyed the exercise, too. After they completed the assignments, they broke for lunch and then



Remy Sclafani (left) and Ryan Sparks check out the deals on Adidas tennis shoes during a real-life class assignment at Westland Mall. Valerie Orr, a math teacher at Franklin Middle School, takes the students to the mall to work on percentages and probabilities in a real-world environment.

were able to do a little shopping of their own.

"It helps us learn and it's fun at the same time," said Katie Fogg, an eighth grader at Franklin.

Remy Sclafani, another stu-

dent, agreed.

"This is totally my thing," he said. "It's fast-paced stuff."

Franklin Middle School is located in Wayne, but it's a community melting pot, with students from Wayne, Westland, Inkster,

Romulus and Canton Township.

Orr said she's taken her class to the mall for the assignment in each of the last 2 years, and the third year was just as successful.

"It makes them think, that's for sure," she said.

CLASSIFIED

01. Obituaries
02. In Memoriam
03. Cards of Thanks
04. Monuments
 &/w Cemetery Plots
05. Personals
06. Legal Notices
07. Attorneys
08. Entertainment
09. Lost & Found
10. Coming Events
31. Help Wanted Sales

32. Help Wanted
33. Child Care
34. Specialized Services
35. Situations Wanted
40. Business Opportunity
42. Pawn Shops
43. Money to Loan
44. Music Lessons
45. Art Lessons
46. Private Instruction
47. Schools
50. Pets & Supplies

54. Rummage Sales
55. Farm Equipment/Supplies
56. Garage Sales
57. Antiques
58. Flea Markets
59. Auctions
60. Misc. Sales
61. Misc. Items
62. Building Supplies
63. Business with Office & Equipment
64. Lawn & Garden Supplies

65. Tree Service
66. Landscape / Nurseries
67. Garden Plant / Supplies
68. Garden / Produce
70. Christmas Trees
72. Machinery Tools
73. Musical Merchandise
74. Sporting Goods
75. Boats / Accessories
76. Snowmobiles
77. Recreation Vehicles
78. Hunting / Fishing

82. Wanted to Buy
87. Room for Rent
88. Duplexes for Rent
89. Apartments for Rent
90. Condos for Rent
92. Business Places for Rent
93. Banquet Halls
94. Farm Land for Rent
95. Garages for Rent
97. Cottages for Rent
98. Mobile Homes for Rent
99. Mobile Home Lots for Rent

100. Will Share
101. Wanted to Rent
102. Storage
103. Business with Property
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106. Houses for Sale
107. Condos for Sale
108. Lake with Resort
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59. Auctions

Notice of Public Sale pursuant to state law a sale will be held on Dec 23, 2004 at 1pm on the following units:

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ture, tools, ladder, weights and bench, toys, boxes D44-Jenny Smith=Furniture, boxes, line skates, snowboard E30-David Bain=Furniture, lamps, boxes, utility dolly E32-A Taylor=Furniture, tools, boxes, desk I35-Andrea Hancock=Furniture, boxes J20-Thomas Scanlon=Tools, boxes J30-James Lewis=Furniture, boxes America's Budget Storage 40671 Joy Rd. Canton, MI 48187

On December 18, 2004, the Van Buren Township Police Department will conduct a public auction of impounded and abandoned vehicles. The auction will begin at 10:00am, at J&T Towing and Storage, 237 Industrial Dr. Belleville MI, County of Wayne, where the following will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

1989 SUBARU SW JF2AN53B7KE401827 44-1169-04 1983 CHRYSLER 4D

87. Rooms for Rent

2C3BF66P1DR196187 44-1179-04 1996 KARAVAN TL NO VIN 44-1194-04 1994 PONTIAC 2D 1G2NE1532RM580863 44-1206-04

Upon completion, the auction will move to Great Lakes Towing and storage, 42350 Van Born Rd. Belleville MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

1986 HONDA MC JH2MC1307GK107112 44-1170-04 1995 FORD SW 1FASP15JXSW115030 44-1174-04 1995 FORD SW 2FMDA5145SBA10369 44-1083-04 1991 CHEVROLET PU 1GCCS14R4M2296883 44-1190-04 1984 FORD PU 1FTCF15F7ELA09749 44-1214-04

Due to unknown ownership, 30 day notice is given that in January 2005, the following vehicles will be offered for sale at public auction.

1973 CHEVROLET 2D 1S87K3N184660 44-1154-04 UNK FORD 750 BACKHOE TR UNKNOWN VIN 44-1232-04

All vehicles are sold in "as is condition". Bidding on all vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

Joannie D. Payne, CMC Van Buren Township Clerk Published: December 9, 2004

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

On December 14, 2004 the Westland Police Department will conduct public auctions of impounded, abandoned vehicles. The first auction will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. at Westland Service Towing, 37501 Cherry Hill, Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

1989 Honda CRX 2 Door-Red JHMED9364KS006288 1991 Pontiac Grand Prix 4 Door-Gray 1G2WJ54T9MF252605 1994 Pontiac Grand Prix 2 Door-White 1G2NW15M0RC820374 1995 Ford Taurus 4 Door-Silver 1FALP54P0SA195792 1994 Ford Aspire 2 Door-Purple KNJLT05H1R6122103 1991 Nissan 2 Door-Grey/Maroon 1N6SD11S1MC331562 1999 Arctic Cat ZR500-Snowmobile Green 9913189

The second auction will begin promptly at 11:00a.m. at Westland Car Care 6375 Hix Rd., Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

1992 Oldsmobile Cutlass 4 Door-Blue 1G3AL54N2N6423147 1992 Ford Tempo 4 Door-Red 2FAPP36X3NB178500 1995 Mercury Cougar 2 Door-Red 1MELM62W0SH607539

1988 Ford Escort 4 Door-White 1FAPP9597JT188771 1993 Buick Skylark 4 Door-Red 1G4NM54N3PC253945 1992 GMC Station Wagon-White 1GKDM19W8NB532907 2000 Honda Accord 4 Door-Gold 1HGGC5673YA128301 1992 Ford Tempo 2 Door-Blue 1FAPP31XXNK157320 1992 Buick Skylark 4 Door-Blue 1G4NJ54N6NC649213

All vehicles are sold in "as

is" condition. Bidding on all vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

The following vehicles have been deemed abandoned and will be sold at public auction on December 16, 2004 at 1:00 pm. Dalton's Towing 27218 Currier, Dearborn Heights 48125. 313-299-9727

1991 Dodge Station Wagon 1B4GK54R4MX510831 1993 Chevrolet

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KNJBT06KXK6104842
1989 Ford
4 Door
2FAB74F6KX158333
1995 Oldsmobile
4 Door
1G3WH52M4SD383453
1996 Dodge
4 Door
1B3ES27C9TD637673
1997 GMC
Station Wagon
1GDFG15R1V1057193
1991 Chevrolet
2 Door
1G1FP2384ML157725
1990 Chevrolet
Van
1GBEG25K4L7133125
Honda
Motorcycle
SC042007865
1984 Ford
Pickup Truck
2FTDF15Y7ECA81986
1994 Dodge
Station Wagon
2B4GH2530RR748107
1990 Mazda
2 Door
1YVGD31B1L5265497
1988 Dodge
Van
2B4FK4133JR565237
1992 Buick
4 Door
1G4NJ5430NC614598
1990 Chevrolet
2 Door
1G1LW14T8LY144478
1993 Chevrolet
Station Wagon
1GNDT13W2P2161129
1993 Dodge
2 Door
1B3XP64K5PN616929
1992 Ford
2 Door
1FAPP31XXNK226779
1986 Chevrolet
Van
2GCCG15N4G4120819
1985 Oldsmobile
4 Door
2G3AM19RFX9312809
1991 Ford
Station Wagon
1FMCA11U6MZB57319
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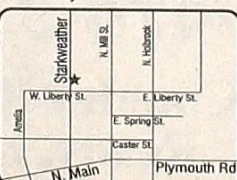
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SPORTS

Whalers sink to third place in West

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Plymouth Whalers fell to third place in the OHL West division, again, with a split last week at the Compuware Sports Arena.

Kitchener got the best of Plymouth Saturday night with a 4-2 victory.

Plymouth goaltender Ryan Nie was barraged with 35 shots throughout the contest. He stonewalled 32 of them, but it wasn't enough.

After a scoreless first period, Kitchener's Mike Duco fired one past Nie for a 1-0 lead. Adam Keefe and Paul McFarland assisted on the goal.

Plymouth responded five minutes later with a power-play score from Mike Letizia at the 10:16 mark. Tim Sestito and John Mitchell helped on the game-tying goal. Keefe was in the box for cross checking, which allowed Plymouth the man-advantage.

Michael Richards, from Keefe, countered with a short-handed goal that put the Rangers back on top, 2-1, with about six minutes left to play in

the second period.

Things started to look bleak for the Whalers when McFarland extended Kitchener's lead to 3-1 just 2:24 into the final period of play. Duco and Andre Benoit recorded the assists on the play. With 1:22 left to play, Tim Sestito cut into the Rangers' lead with his eighth goal of the season. John Armstrong and Letizia were credited with the assists.

Down just one goal, with Nie on the bench and only three seconds left on the clock, Keefe flung the puck into an empty net to put the game away, 4-2.

Whalers 5, Ice Dogs 1

Things in Plymouth Township were quite different the previous night. The Whalers iced the Mississauga 'Dogs, 5-1. They did it with five different goal scorers with two short-handed and two power-play goals and one even-strength score.

Mississauga scored first, but it was all Plymouth after that. John Hecimovic, from Daniel Carcillo and Patrick O'Sullivan, lit up the scoreboard and gave the Ice Dogs a 1-0 lead.

The lead didn't last long. Plymouth scored back-to-back



It's always a physical match-up when the Whalers and Rangers meet. Gino Pisellini checks a Ranger hard into the boards in the teams second meeting of the season on Oct. 9 (above). Kitchener got the best of Plymouth this Saturday, though, with a 4-2 victory.

short-handed goals. The first came at 6:44 in the first period, when Mitchell tucked one in unassisted. Then Sestito knocked one in almost six minutes later, which made it 2-1 in favor of the Whalers. Letizia assisted on the go-ahead goal.

The second period proved to be a power-play period, where Plymouth scored twice with a man-advantage in the final five

minutes of the frame.

Jonas Fiedler put the first one in at the 15:11 mark with help from Mitchell and John Vigilante. Carcillo was in the penalty box for high sticking at the time. Vaclav Meidl took advantage of David Pszenyczny in the box for tripping and made it a 4-1 game at 17:48. Steve Ward and Sestito assisted.

Vigilante put the game away

5-1 in the third with the team's only full-strength goal of the game. Mitchell and Dan Collins made the assists.

The Whalers, now 10-12-4-2, have a busy weekend ahead of them. They will travel to Sarnia Friday night. They return home to host Owen Sound at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday and hit the road again to Guelph for a 3 p.m. face off on Sunday.

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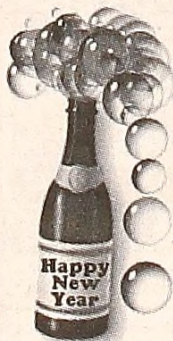
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New hockey coach aims high for Canton Chiefs

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Canton Hockey Coach Mike Behen is fueled with lofty expectations and is ready to keep things going.

"We expect to be a really strong top-ten program this year," he said. "We want to win the league and districts, regionals and, ultimately, win a state championship. We want to achieve these goals or approximate them the best we can."

Behen, brand new to the Canton system, was a coach in AAA and travel programs before he decided to give the Canton Chiefs a shot.

So far, so good.

He and the Chiefs kicked off their season back on Nov. 19 and have won 2-of-3 to start.

To help him along the way is an experienced bunch of seniors - 14 in all.

"We have high expectations," Behen said. "With that many seniors wanting a last chance to win, that's the strength of our team. The seniors provide the leadership and they want a chance to win something."

Senior forward Reece McCabe, a three-year player,

will return along with fellow senior forwards Garrett Hyman and Brian Wioncek. The Chiefs will also have junior forward Kevin Tollison back on the roster. He gained experience on the team last year with his older brother, Kyle. Canton will also have new forwards in junior Brett Giacchino and sophomore Brad Baraph.

Although the offense sounds impressive, Behen said the strength of the team may lie in the defense.

He has three starting defensemen from last year back in the line-up. Seniors Pat Davison and Ben Laurin are solid anchors for the defensive core. Junior Pat Gallagher, who also received ice time last year, is another solid component. Behen also acquired the skills of senior defenseman Mike Kondratiec for this year. He came from a Midget program and has already contributed to his new team. He has a goal in all three of the team's contests so far this season.

Senior goaltender Tony Hylko will start for the Chiefs in the net.

Most recently, the team was put to the test against a rebuilding Walled Lake Western team last Friday at home. Canton trounced the Warriors 11-1. McCabe led the assault with three goals and an assist. Kondratiec scored

once but assisted on four others while Wioncek and Hyman each scored a goal and earned three assists.

Before that, the Chiefs hosted the tough and experienced Churchill Chargers but fell, 2-1. Kondratiec earned the only goal that McCabe and Wioncek notched the assists on it.

In the first game of the season, Canton defeated Utica Stevenson, 5-1, with goals from Wioncek, McCabe, Kondratiec and Hyman.

Hylko played the entire first two games and the first half of the Western game while Kevan Swanberg came in and recorded a shutout in the second half of the game.

Although Behen wants to take the season one game at a time he admits that he has his eye on another prize.

"Everything we do is aimed at regionals," he said.

Canton headed to Franklin last night for their first road test but the results were unavailable at press time. They will host Walled Lake Northern at 8 p.m. tomorrow night at the Arctic Edge in Canton Township and then head to Chelsea Saturday night. Right before the holiday break Canton will host rivals Salem at 8 p.m. on Dec. 15 and travel to Northville for a 3 p.m. face-off on Saturday, Dec. 18.

Plymouth Wildcats hoop squad looks to run, compete

Jason Carmel Davis
Staff Writer

This season looks to be a learning experience for the Plymouth High School boys' basketball team.

The 2004-05 Wildcats squad is young, to say the least. There is not one senior on the roster and Head Coach Tom Van Wagoner said he expects that youthfulness to show up early in this year's campaign.

"We anticipate our youth will

show at times in both good and bad ways," he said. "But we don't want to use that as an excuse. The sooner we eliminate youthful errors, we will be ok."

Van Wagoner has enlisted the services of his brother, Dave, who is a former long-time headman at Canton High School. Tom Van Wagoner said he is happy to have Dave's help in guiding Plymouth through its first full varsity schedule, which includes a Western Lakes Activities Association (WLAA) conference race.

A number of players on the Wildcats' roster made the jump to the hardwood from other outlets. The PHS football, soccer, baseball, and track teams all have representatives who make up the young depth chart.

Tom Van Wagoner's outlook on the upcoming season was one of optimism. He said that, although everyone is basically a newcomer to varsity basketball, the team still desires to do well.

The head coach also said his team will go eleven deep, and be a

fast-breaking, full-court pressing team.

Van Wagoner said he believes Canton, Wayne Memorial and Northville may finish atop the West Division, with John Glenn, Walled Lake Central and Walled Lake Northern having the upper hand in the Lakes Division.

Although the team, and the school, is relatively new to varsity competition, Van Wagoner said practice has been very tough.

"Competition in practice has been good, and starting spots will

be determined in the near future," he said.

Van Wagoner said that with the talent he has, his team can finish in the top half of the WLAA. To help his squad successfully come out of the blocks, Plymouth's first five games are at home. Van Wagoner said that was done to build his group's confidence.

"We hope to come out of it above .500," he said. "A perfect five for five would be top notch, but I'd hate to see us not win three of those five games."

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Northville's Kristi Anderson makes a jump in one of the team competitions. She finished in eighth place in the division and 15th in the district.



Melanie Thompson competes in a barrel-racing event. She placed second in the division and fifth in the district.

Northville riders 2nd in division

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Northville equestrian team had another stellar season this year. They finished second in their B division and, district wide, they had the third highest number of points. Only Hartland in division A and Brighton accumulated more.

The team consists of seven riders that include senior co-captains Lindsey Scheer and Renee Christopher; juniors Kristi Anderson and Melanie Thompson; and freshmen Alyssa Menovcik, Sam Naszradi and Lannis Smith. Angela and Natalie Thomson are the coaches of the award winning team.

The team also includes five assistants, Audrey Bridges, Denise Daniels, Lauren Scheer, Lauren Skalski and Anna Twissellman that helped the riders the

entire season with the horses and preparing for each meet.

The riders competed in events such as Western, Saddle Seat and Hunt Seat Fitting and Showing; Saddle Seat Showing; Saddle Seat and Hunt Seat Equitation; Saddle Seat Pattern; Saddle Seat, Hunt Seat and Western Bareback; Equitation Over Fences; Western Stock Seat; Western Riding/Reining Pattern; Trail; Flag Race; Barrel Racing; and Two-Person Relay Race.

Christopher earned high point rider for the division and number-two rider for the entire district, which includes A, B and C teams with a total of 133 riders. Thompson came in second in the division and fifth in the district while Scheer finished fifth in the division and 15th in the district. Anderson placed eighth in the division rankings and 19th for the district.

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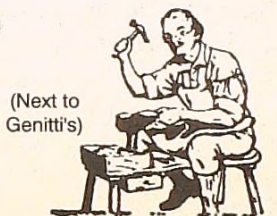


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Inkster hoops coach anticipates tough, good season

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Ever since last season ended for the Inkster Vikings boys' basketball team, Coach Gerald Paschal has been anticipating the start of this season.

Lucky for him, he spends the fall taking the edge off by coaching the girls' junior varsity team. But the wait is over and the season is here.

The boys' roster is finalized and the pre-season is now over – it's time to put all of the intricate pieces of a team together and try to do what every coach wants to do: win the league, the district, the region and the State.

Although that may be what Paschal would like to see, he said he's taking it one game at a

time.

Like most high school teams, Inkster is in a rebuilding phase after they lost four starting seniors to graduation.

"When you lose seniors you almost have to change the dynamics of the team," Paschal said. "That's where we're at right now. We're working real hard; we'll be a little inexperienced, but we'll be all right in the end."

To help with the experienced side of things, he has three returning starters slated to contribute right away and two others that could start after the Christmas break.

Senior William Fulton, at 6-foot-1, will return at small forward for the Vikings. Pierre Gorree, another returning

senior at 6-foot-3, will remain at the forward position this year. As a sophomore last year, the 6-foot-3 Johnathon Brown, gained some valuable experience and he will use at the forward position again this year.

Paschal said he might obtain the services of Juniors Antwain Goree and Maurice Brown in January. Antwain Goree, 6-foot-4, and Brown, 6-foot-3, are both experienced forwards that could add depth and size to the team.

The Vikings will add size at the post with a 6-foot-8 transfer student, senior Jairocey Simpson.

Another newcomer that could get some playing time is 5-foot-10 junior Reico McCoy at point guard. Others on the roster

include sophomore guard DeMarko Williams, junior forward Antonio Green, junior guard JJ Snelling, freshman guard Antonio Green, junior guard Feliz Kizer, sophomore forward Johnny Crawford and junior forward Jamaal Burns.

Paschal said they are a young team but defense should remain the strong point of the team.

"On defense we won't miss a beat," he said. "We're still going to play strong Inkster defense; because of that I have high expectations for the team."

"With a 6-foot-8 post player we really have a chance to do something good. I think we should be able to compete in the division."

The Vikings may have their work cutout for them in the

Mega White league where they will face teams such as Woodhaven, Highland Park, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights Robichaud, Dearborn Fordson and Taylor Truman.

"Anybody can beat anybody in the league," Paschal said. "I'm looking forward to every game."

But to remain competitive he is looking for his seniors to step up as leaders.

"They're the heart of the team," he said. "It's not just as far as stats go but as leadership and all of the intangibles, too."

Inkster kicked off their season and home opener against Detroit Southwestern on Tuesday but the results were unavailable at press time. They will host Ecorse at 7 p.m. on Friday.

Plymouth Wildcats hockey team splits first two varsity contests

Jason Carmel Davis
Staff Writer

In its very first week of varsity action, the Plymouth High School hockey team split its first two contests – which came as a shock to the team's head coach.

Their first varsity win came in their first varsity game on the road against Pinckney on Nov. 20, a 5-3 triumph. And head coach Mike Kaput said he, and his team, went through a lot of different emotions that night.

"It was a lot of fun," he said.

"But it was also quite a bit on the unexpected side, as well."

The game was a back-and-forth contest, as the teams traded goals until the Wildcats took a 3-2 lead.

Kaput said his goaltender, sophomore Justin Desilets, did a solid job, coming up with a couple of key saves down the stretch to preserve the victory. He also said his team played with a lot of energy.

"Pinckney is a new team, too," Kaput said. "But our team is made up of mostly sophomores

and juniors. Anytime you win, it's unexpected. But to win your first time out is something."

The squad wasn't able to bask in its glory for long. On Dec. 1, they suffered their first setback of the young season as Plymouth was dominated by Livonia Franklin, 6-1.

The score stood at 2-0 after two periods, but two quick goals in the third put the game out of reach.

"It was a good game for two periods," Kaput said. "But I think if you throw the senior fac-

tor in there, their team just took over."

In their first full season of varsity play, Kaput said his team is looking to have a fair amount of success this year.

Junior forward and captain Ryan Stann is set to anchor the young team, while Desilets gives the team the best chance to win in goal, Kaput said. Sophomore forward Nick Rososchacki, sophomore defenseman Jason O'Quinn and junior forward Billy Gauthier are all expected to contribute, as well.

"All the guys on this team are hungry and happy to be here," Kaput said. "They realize it's an honor and a privilege to play for your school."

Kaput said he is going to take a different approach in evaluating the team's play this season, too.

"If we get a couple bounces here and there, we can be successful," he said. "But we're not going to judge our season on wins and losses. We just want to get better every day, every shift and every game."

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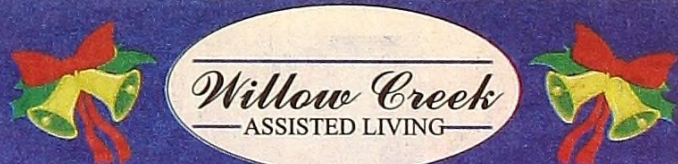
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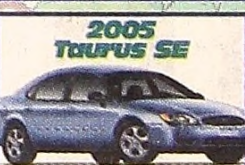
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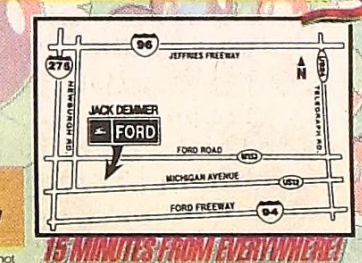
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RESALE BEATS RETAIL!!



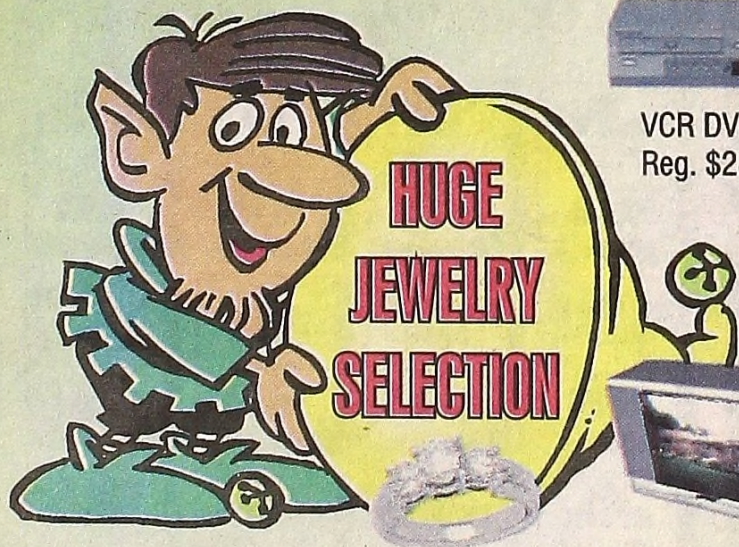
Check Out Our Upstairs Showroom

We Sell Gently Used Items

6,000 Sq. Ft. Showroom in Canton

Wide Selection of:

Furniture, Home Furnishings, Art, TV's, Electronics, Computers, Tools, Jewelry, Kitchen Accessories, Antiques, Collectibles and Much More...



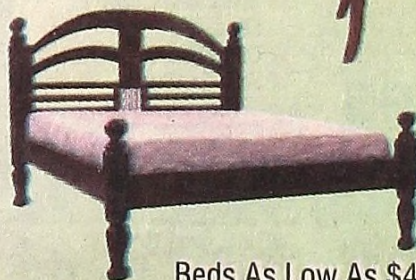
VCR DVD Combo Recorder
Reg. \$289 Now \$199

Dining Room
Table and Chairs \$99



Loveseat \$99

End Tables \$10



Beds As Low As \$49

Coffee Tables \$29



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HOLIDAY HOURS: NOV. 26 - DEC. 30, 2004 • MON THRU SAT 10 AM - 9 PM • SUNDAY 11 AM - 6 PM